

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 02140 091817Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 /067 W
-----091824Z 112991 /47

R 091612Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2673
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2140

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RP, VT
SUBJ: CHRUCH-STATE RELATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. VATICAN RADIO ON FEBRUARY 3 BROKE LONG VATICAN SILENCE
ON CHURCH-STATE DIFFICULTIES IN THE PHILIPPINES BY
CARRYING COMMENTARY ON RECENT PHILIPPINE CATHOLIC
HIERARCHY LETTER PROTESTING PERSECURITY.

2. ACCORDING TO TRANSCRIPT OF COMMENTARY, THE LETTER,
WHICH WAS SIGNED IN LATE JANUARY BY CARDINAL
PRIMATE SIN, 57 BISHOPS, SIX ARCHBISHOPS, AND ONE
OTHER CARDINAL AFFIRMS THAT PRIESTS, SISTERS AND LAYPERSONS
HAVE BEEN "PERSECUTED, INTIMIDATED, ARRESTED AND JAILED".

3. COMMENTARY THEN STATES THAT THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS WAS
CENTRAL THEME IN DISCUSSIONS OF THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE
WHICH MET IN CEBU IN LATE JANUARY; AND THAT AMONG
THE MOST SALIENT EPISODES WHICH HAVE GIVEN VIGOROUS PRE-
OCCUPATION TO THE HIERARCHY HAVE BEEN (1) THE CLOSURE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 02140 091817Z

OF TWO CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS ("SIGN OF THE TIMES" AND THE
JESUIT "COMMUNICATOR"), (2) THE SHUTDOWN OF TWO CHRUCH
RADIO STATIONS, AND (3) THE ARREST OF SOME 20 CATHOLIC
PRIESTS AND LAYMEN IN MINDANAO. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

4. COMMENT: THIS COMMENTARY BREAKS A NOTEWORTHY RESERVE ON THE PART OF THE VATICAN ON CHURCH-STATE PROBLEMS IN THE PHILIPPINES. INDEED THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION OF VATICAN CONCERN IN OVER A YEAR. THE VATICAN UNTIL NOW HAS ENDEAVORED TO TREAT QUIETLY WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS IN ORDER TO AVOID PUBLIC CONFRONTATION BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE OR THE VATICAN AND THE PHILIPPINES. THE VATICAN HAS MONITORED CLOSELY THE SITUATION BUT HAS KEPT ACTIONS WITHIN ITS MAIN OBJECTIVE OF AVOIDING OPEN SPLIT WITH MARCOS. AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR IN VATICAN'S RESERVE HAS BEEN ITS OWN UNHAPPINESS WITH THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF SOME JESUIT MISSIONARIES. WE WERE TOLD RECENTLY BY VATICAN OFFICIAL THAT JESUITS THERE HAD IMPRUDENTLY CIRCULATED BOOKLET ON "GUIDELINES FOR POLITICAL ACTIONS" WHICH IF REVEALED WOULD BE FOUND OFFENSIVE TO COP. CONSEQUENTLY, HE THOUGHT THERE WERE PRESSURES FOR ADDITIONAL CHANGES IN THE LEADERSHIP OF CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES IN THE PHILIPPINES. WE APPRECIATED HAVING EXCELLENT ANALYSIS IN MANILA'S 1162 AND WILL CONTINUE MONITORING VATICAN REACTIONS. BEAUDRY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME02140
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770046-0760
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770258/aaaabzio.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e8d418c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3364670
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PFOR, RP, VT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e8d418c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009